Incentives to Iron Units

*169. SHRI MATANG SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are considering several incentives to pull sponge iron units out of red;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the impact of the proposed measures on the industry?

THE MNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c): Sponge Iron Units are expected to benefit from the following Budget proposals for the year 1993-94;

(i) Increase in the customs duty on import of steel melting scrap from 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

(ii) Reduction in the import duty on iron ore pellets from 35 per cent to 15 per cent.

(iii) Reduction in the import duty on capital goods for project import from 55 per cent to 35 per cent.

(iv) Reduction in minimum interest rate by 1 per cent.

As a result of these measures capital costs of new units and production casts of existig as well as new units will be reduced, thereby improving the viability.

Alternative Sources of Livelihood to the Scavangers

*170. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a policy decision has been taken to abolish the practice of carrying the night soil as headload;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide alternative sources of livelihood to the affected persons;

(c) the stage of survey conducted in this area; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide wheel burrows to the scavangers?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) A National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents has been launched by the Ministry of Welfare during 1991-92. The steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide alternative sources of livelihood to these persons are as under:—

(i) Identification of Scavengers and their dependents and their aptitude for alternative trade through a survey.

(ii) Training in identified trades for scavengers and their dependents at the nearest local training institutions|centres of various departments of State Governments, Central Govt. (institutes set up under the Ministries of Labour and Employment, Human Resource Development, Small Scale Industraies, Rural Development Deptt.) and semi-Government and non-Government organisations.

(iii) Rehabilitation of scavengers in various trades and occupations such as agriculture and allied sector, small industry, service and business sector, by providing subsidy, Margin Money Loan and Bank Loan.

(iv) As regards implementation of the programme, stipend of Rs. 150|-p.m. per trainee (15 to 50 years age group) will be given and additional expenditure of Rs. 350 p.m. per trainee will be borne by the Government. As regards rehabilitation package the break-up of financial assistance for a project costing Rs. 50,000|- will be subsidy

upto Rs. 10,000/- Margin Money Loan from the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporation upto Rs. 7500/- and Loan from the Banks to an extent Rs. 32,500/-

(v) During 1991-92 Rs. 50.50 crores were released to States/U. T.s. For 1992-93 a provision of Rs. 60 crores has been made in the budget. As on 26th February, 1993 number of scavengers so far surveyed stood tentatively at 459468. This includes 10 States where survey has been completed and the other states where the survey is in progress.

(vi) The scheme also provides for a Central Monitoring Committee, State and District Level Committees.

(vii) With a view to review the execution of the scheme, the strategy and approach was discussed with the Ministers and Secretaries of Welfare Departmens of Southern Region at Trivandrum on August 28 & 29, 1992, Western Region on September 24, 25 1992 at Bombay and Ministers of all the States Ts, Secretaries of Scheduled Caste Development and Mayors of Municipal Corporations at New Delhi on September 18-19, 1992

(viii) The Government is finalising a proposal to set up a Commission on Safai Karamcharis shortly.

2. Survey has been completed in ten States namely AP, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Kerala, MP Rajasthan: UP and Tamil Nadu while it is in progress in the remaining States and Union Territories.

The scheme of providing wheel barrows to the scavengers was discontinued from fifth Five Year Plan as it was not found convenient by female scavengers due to heavy load resulting in strenuous pulling lack of parking places, difficulty in repair and maintenance and their non-pliability in narrow lanes and on uneven roads/surfaces.

NRIs Investment in Housing Schemes

*171 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated a scheme to attract Non-Resident Indians investment in housing and the related sector.

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether any encouraging signs have been noticed from the NRI's; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). In line with the general policy for encouraging NRI investment in various sectors, Government have formulated a scheme to attract NRI investment in housing and real estate development. The broad details of the scheme are given in the Staement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The scheme has only recently been finalised and circulated among the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for implementation. It is too early to assess the impact of the scheme.

Statement

Broad details of the Scheme for NRI investment in Housing and Real Estate Development.

(1) The scheme will cover investment by NRIs with foreign citizenship and Indian passports in housing and real estate ventures, housing finance institutions, building material units etc. in terms of existing invest-